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## On the Hill



### House Passes Emergency Hunger Relief Act of 1988

On July 13, H.R. 4060, the Emergency Hunger Relief Act of 1988, passed the House Agriculture Committee by voice vote. Sponsored by Representative Leon Panetta (D-CA), the bill would reauthorize the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program for one year, require USDA to purchase \$110 million worth of commodities for TEFAP distribution, increase food stamp benefit levels, and introduce new food stamp quality control error rate targets. The Senate companion bill, S. 2560, was approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee on June 14.

-Story by Carol Stansfield  
Governmental Affairs Staff

### FIP Begins in Washington State

Opening ceremonies were held July 1 to kick off Washington State's welfare reform demonstration project, the Family Independence Program (FIP). Also on that date new applications for aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) and annual AFDC face-to-face determinations in eight offices around the State are being processed for FIP eligibility and participation, allowing a gradual transition from AFDC to FIP.

FIP provides many services to participants, including, as part of the FIP grant, a cash food assistance grant equal to or greater than the amount

participants would have received in food stamps. Nine additional offices are scheduled to implement FIP in October.

-Story by Janet Allen  
WRO Food Stamp Program

### MARO Pilots Automatic Claim Calculation in Delaware

Mid-Atlantic Food Stamp Program staff has developed an automated claim calculation package that dramatically reduces the amount of time and aggravation spent in compiling overissuance amounts. MARO personnel recently installed the system, which is being used in conjunction with the "Dollars" claims tracking and reporting system previously developed and implemented by MARO in Delaware.

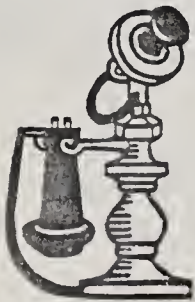
The claim calculation package performs gross and net income tests, determines the appropriate deductions and applies the correct allotment tables. Following the current pilot-testing by the Delaware state agency (comparing manually calculated claim amounts with those calculated by the system in order to identify any problems), the regional office plans to provide the new claim calculation package to other jurisdictions in the region.

-Story by Walt Haake  
MARO Food Stamp Program



## Popular USDA Telephone Hotline Continues to Ring

If you have a question about safe handling and storage techniques for meat and poultry products, you might want to call the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) hotline. For three years, the FSIS telephone lines have been busy with nearly 50,000 calls a year from food consumers throughout the country.



The majority of those calls were on basic food handling issues but callers also asked about food poisoning (particularly salmonella), meat and poultry inspection, irradiation of foods, chemical residues and product labeling.

The hotline doesn't answer requests for recipes for nutrition information. Calls of this nature are referred to the Human Nutrition Information Service or to the caller's county extension service.

Like any hotline, requests for information can get a bit unusual like "How do I get a horse out of Argentina?" If you're looking for an answer, you might want to try the FSIS meat and poultry hotline. It's staffed 10 AM to 4 PM EST, five days a week by specially trained USDA home economists. The

Linda L. Boling  
Editor, Public Information Staff

The Friday Letter is published every 2 weeks by the Public Information Staff of the Food and Nutrition Service. To update mailing address, or to alter number of copies received, please mail changes to the FNS Public Information Staff, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 823, Alexandria, VA 22302, telephone no. 756-3284.

number is 1-800-535-4555. For those in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, call 447-3333.

-Story by Joan Turetsky  
Nutrition and Technical Services  
Division

Editor's Note: Joan is a nutritionist with NTSD. She shares this information with us after spending a brief work detail answering the FSIS hotline telephones.

## MARO Moves to New GSA Facility in Downtown Denver

MPRO has settled into new quarters at the Colonnade Building, 1244 Speer Boulevard in Denver. Though the building is only a mile east of the previous regional office site, it is more centrally located in the city. Originally intended to be leased as commercial office space, the Colonnade Building was purchased at a bargain price by General Services Administration on the heels of a downturn in the energy industry and a boom in office building construction.

With the assistance of Property Management Branch Chief Wally Jacobsen, his aides Linda Young and Diane DeStefano, and Laura Yeager from the Southeast Regional Office staff, the move was accomplished with a minimum of disruption and in a well-orchestrated manner. MPRO is proud of its new location and the exceptional views it offers of the Rocky Mountains.

-Story by Craig Forman  
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

## MARO'S Toastmasters Honor Christopher Martin



The USDA's Toastmasters Club, MARO's in-house training group in public speaking, recently presented Regional Administrator Christopher Martin (left) with a certificate of appreciation. Alexis Lometz, immediate past president of the club, presented the award to honor Martin for his recognition of the club as a valuable part of MARO's employee development program.

With Martin's support, membership in the club has increased by 50 percent.

The club offers training in public speaking and communication skills to all regional office staff. They are associated with Toastmasters International.

New members are enthusiastic about the opportunities the club offers to improve their communication skills and to apply these skills to their jobs. Their membership has greatly increased the strength of the USDA Toastmasters Club and has assured that it will continue as a training activity available to MARO employees.

-Story and photo by Linda Feldman  
MARO Public Affairs Staff

## WRO Celebrates Asian/Pacific Heritage Week

Members of the San Francisco media were featured in a panel discussion of "Asians in the Media" as part of the WRO's Asian/Pacific Heritage Week.

Panel members included Janice Gin, a TV news producer; Curtis Kim, a radio announcer; and Richard Springer, assistant editor for a newspaper that focuses on Asian issues.

Other events included an "ikebana" presentation (old Japanese art of arranging flowers) by a local artist who created a dozen dazzling floral arrangements for an enthusiastic audience; a display and talk on Asian embroideries for native costumes of Japan, Korea, and India by a docent for the San Francisco Asian Art Museum; a videotape, "Slaying the Dragon," which explored how films have perpetuated the stereotype of Asian women and men; videotapes on travel in Korea and Hawaii; and videotapes on travel in Indonesia, and the economic contributions of Indonesians.



A local artist prepares for her "ikebana" presentation for WRO's Asian/Pacific Heritage Week.

-Story by Lois A. Grunwald  
Photo by Tino Serrano  
WRO Public Affairs Staff



## SWRO Employees Receive FEB Awards



Distinguished government service winners Kay Blakley (left) and Michael Montgomery (right) are shown with SWRO Administrator Gene Dickey.

SWRO Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) employees made an excellent showing at the recent Dallas/Fort Worth Federal Executive Board (FEB) Annual Awards Ceremony. Both FNS nominees received first place distinguished government service awards in their respective categories. Deputy Regional Administrator Michael H. Montgomery was first in the category for GM and GS-13 and above, and senior public affairs specialist Kay Blakley for GS-7 to GS-12. Montgomery was also a finalist in the "outstanding cost-effectiveness" category.

More than 150 federal agencies throughout north Texas are eligible to nominate outstanding employees for the eight award categories.

As deputy regional administrator for the FNS Southwest Region, Montgomery is responsible for the overall management of federal food assistance programs in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. A native of Medina, New York, he attended the State University of New York at Brockport, where he graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. degree in psychology and

sociology. He has been with FNS since 1972, becoming deputy Southwest regional administrator in 1982.

Blakley grew up in Stockton, Missouri, and received her B.S. degree in home economics from the University of Missouri in Columbia. She has worked for Food and Nutrition Service since 1979.

-Story and photo by Judy Snow  
SWRO Public Affairs Staff

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## Tornadoes Twist into Denver

Members of the Mountain Plains Regional Office in Denver had a front-row seat when a half-dozen tornadoes raked the city at rush hour in mid-June. This unusual white tornado never touched the ground, yet downed hundreds of trees along Monaco Parkway in northeast Denver. The loss of trees estimated to be 100 years old was set at \$1.5 million, and total storm damage was expected to reach \$10 million. Fortunately, no one was killed. Surprisingly, the tornado damage was far less significant than damage from a hailstorm that struck the metropolitan area in 1984. That pelting caused \$364 million in damages and killed one person. It ranks as the most expensive hailstorm in the Nation's history, according to insurance company sources.



-Story and photo by Craig Forman  
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

## Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of May with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

	<u>May 1987</u>	<u>Apr. 1988</u>	<u>May 1988</u>	<u>2/</u>
<u>Food Stamp Program: 1/</u>				
People participating (mil.) .....	19.3	19.1	18.8	
Value of bonus coupons (\$ mil.) .....	876.1	949.9	928.3	
Average bonus per person .....	\$ 45.51	\$ 49.83	\$ 49.47	
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	971.4	1,051.5	1,029.9	
<u>National School Lunch Program:</u>				
Number of schools participating (thous.) .....	90.2	90.6	90.6	
Children participating (mil.) .....	23.4	24.2	23.6	
Children reached with free or reduced price lunches (mil.) .....	11.4	11.5	11.2	
Percentage of lunches served free .....	41.7	41.1	40.6	
Percentage of lunches served at reduced price. ....	6.6	6.6	6.5	
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	367.4	343.8	382.9	
<u>School Breakfast Program:</u>				
Number of schools participating (thous.) .....	37.2	38.7	38.7	
Children participating (mil.) .....	3.6	3.7	3.7	
Percentage of breakfasts served free or at reduced price .....	87.8	87.1	87.1	
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	50.6	48.4	54.7	
<u>Child Care Food Program:</u>				
Number of meals served in centers (mil.) .....	36.8	39.6	39.4	
Number of meals served in homes (mil.) .....	26.3	30.2	30.5	
Percentage of all meals served free .....	77.3	78.1	78.1	
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	46.1	53.0	52.9	
<u>Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</u>				
People participating (mil.) .....	3.4	3.6	3.7	
Food cost (\$ mil.) .....	113.3	124.0	123.6	
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	139.2	154.8	153.4	
<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program: 3/</u>				
People participating (thous.) .....	194.4	213.5	208.1	
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	3.2	3.5	3.4	
<u>Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:</u>				
Number of projects in operation .....	106	107	107	
People participating (thous.) .....	141.5	136.6	134.2	
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	4.3	4.3	4.2	
<u>Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program:</u>				
Total USDA cost (\$ mil.) .....	75.3	57.8	9.2	

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of July 22, 1988.

3/ Includes data for all elderly participants.



## Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the vacant positions listed below. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Application for Federal Employment, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you are interested in a headquarters position, apply to the Operations Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexandria, Virginia

22302. Apply directly to headquarters office for all GM-14 and 15 positions. For regional positions, apply directly to the regional office. For details on the requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or copies can be obtained from the appropriate regional or headquarters personnel office.

### Friday Letter Vacancy Listing By Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Clerk Stay in Schooler	(A)	GW-303	1/2	Open	88-SIS	FNS
o Clerk Typist	(A)	GS-322	2/3/4	Open until Filled	NONE	FNS
o Secretary Typing	(A)	GS-318	4/5/6	Open	88-999	FNS
o Sec (Typ)	(A)	GS-318	3/4/5	7/26/88	88-54	PDD
o Food Prog Spec	(L)	GS-120	11/12	7/26/88	88-51A	SFPD
o Food Prog Spec	(G)	GS-120	11/12	7/26/88	88-51	SFPD
o Contract Spec	(G)	GS-1102	5/7	7/26/88	88-52	ASD
o Supvry Prog Anal	(FNS)	GM-345	14	7/26/88	88-53	OAE
o Empl Devel Spec	(G)	GS-235	12	7/26/88	88-55	PED
o Sec (Typ)	(G)	GS-318	5	8/1/88	88-57	HNIS
o Sec (Typ)	(G)	GS-318	5	8/8/88	88-58	SFPD
o Sec (Steno)	(G)	GS-318	7	8/8/88	88-59	ORO
o Sec (Typ)	(FNS)	GS-318	5/6	7/28/88	88-60	OAE
o Home Econ	(A)	GS-493	9/11	8/8/88	88-H-61	HNIS
o Food Prog Spec	(FNS)	GM-120	14	8/8/88	88-62	FNS*
o Home Econ	(A)	GS-493	11/12	8/22/88	88-H-64*	HNIS
o Sec (Typ)	FNS	GS-318	6/7	8/8/88	88-65	OGAPI
o Food Prog Spec	(G)	GS-120	5/7	8/15/88	88-66	NTSD
o Food Prog Spec	(A)	GS-120	5/7	8/15/88	88-66A	NTSD
o Sec (Typ)	(FNS)	GS-318	5	8/3/88	88-68	PDD
o Sys Accountant	(G)	GS-510	12/13	8/15/88	88-23A	ACD

#### Office Location

#### Area of Consideration

FNS	- Food and Nutrition Service	(A)	- All Sources
SFPD	- Supplemental Food Programs Division	(G)	- Governmentwide
PED	- Personnel Division	(L)	- Local Commuting Area Only
HNIS	- Human Nutrition Information Service	(FNS)	- Food and Nutrition Service
ASD	- Administrative Services Division		
OAE	- Office of Analysis and Evaluation		
PDD	- Program Development Division		
NTSD	- Nutrition and Technical Services Division		
FNS*	- Southwest Region (Dallas, TX)		
ACD	- Accounting Division		
ORO	- Office of Regional Operations		